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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding a flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase wherein said flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase ~~effects more efficient hydroxylation of flavonoid compounds in plants than a flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26~~ is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 24, a nucleotide sequence having at least 60% identity to any one of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 22 or SEQ ID NO: 24, and a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to any one of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 22 or SEQ ID NO: 24 under stringency conditions of hybridizing at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

2. (Currently canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 1, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:1 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

4. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 3, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:3 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in

about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

5. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 5, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 5 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

6. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 7, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 7 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

7. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 9, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 9 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

8. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 14, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:14 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

9. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 16, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 16 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

10. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 18, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 18 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

11. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 20, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 20 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

12. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 22, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 22 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

13. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24, or has at least about 60% ~~similarity~~ identity to SEQ ID NO: 24, or hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:

24 under low stringency conditions, wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

14. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21 comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding an amino acid sequence ~~as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 50% similarity thereto~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 25, and an amino acid sequence having at least 50% similarity to any one of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 23, or SEQ ID NO: 25.

15-24. (Currently canceled)

25. (Previously canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A genetic construct capable of reducing expression of an endogenous gene encoding a flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase in a plant, said genetic construct comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in one of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 23, or SEQ ID NO: 25;
- (ii) the nucleotide sequence set forth in one of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 22 or SEQ ID NO: 24, or the coding region in SEQ ID NO: 9;

- (iii) a nucleotide sequence having at least about 60 % ~~similarity~~ identity to (i) or (ii);
- and
- (iv) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under low stringency conditions to (i), (ii) or (iii) wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42°C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing at 42°C with about 1M to about 2M salt.

27. (Currently amended) A method for producing a transgenic plant which synthesizes a flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase, said method comprising stably transforming a cell of a plant with a the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 14 ~~which comprises a sequence of nucleotides encoding said flavonoid 3'-hydroxylase~~ under conditions wherein said nucleic acid molecule is expressed, regenerating a transgenic plant from the cell, and growing said transgenic plant for a time and under conditions wherein the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

28-29. (Currently canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 27 ~~or 28~~ wherein said plant is selected from the group consisting of petunia, carnation, chrysanthemum, rose, snapdragon, tobacco, cornflower, pelargonium, lisianthus, gerbera, apple, iris, lily, African violet and morning glory.

31. (Currently amended) A method for producing a transgenic plant ~~capable of modulating hydroxylation of flavonoid compounds~~, said method comprising stably transforming a cell or group of cells of a plant with a the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 14, and regenerating a transgenic plant from said cell or group of cells.

32. (Currently canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A transgenic plant having tissue exhibiting altered colour, said transgenic plant comprising a the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 14 ~~comprising a sequence of nucleotides selected from the group consisting of:~~

- ~~(i) — a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in one of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 23, or SEQ ID NO: 25;~~
- ~~(ii) — the nucleotide sequence set forth in one of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 22 or SEQ ID NO: 24, or the coding region in SEQ ID NO: 9;~~
- ~~(iii) — a nucleotide sequence having at least about 60 % similarity to (i) or (ii); and~~
- ~~(iv) — a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under low stringency conditions to (i), (ii) or (iii) wherein said conditions comprise hybridization at 42 °C in about 1% to about 15% formamide and about 1M to about 2M salt, and washing with about 1M to about 2M salt.~~

34. (Currently amended) The A cut flower from a transgenic plant according to claim 33.

35. (Currently amended) The A seed from a transgenic plant according to claim 33.

36. (Currently amended) The A fruit from a transgenic plant according to claim 33.

37. (Currently amended) The A leaf from a transgenic plant according to claim 33.

38-39 (Previously canceled)